GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1456
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2015
Uranium in Meghalaya
Lekhi Smt. Meenakashi;Meinya Dr. Thokchom

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a)the status of Kylleng Pyndengsohiong Mawathabah (KPM)uranium project in Meghalaya;

(b)whether any mining activities have been started there and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c)whether the Government has been able to harness the full potential of existing uranium occurrence and production centres in the country;

(d)if so, the details thereof and the outcome in this regard; and

(e)whether there is any proposal for Public Private Partnership (PPP)model foruranium mining in the region and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH) :

(a)Current status of Kylleng-Pyndengsohiong - Mawthabah Uranium Mining and Milling Project (Meghalaya) is given below:

â€¢Detailed Project Report, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)/ Environment Management Plan (EMP) and other technical documents have been prepared.

â€¢Final Environmental Clearance from Ministry of Environment & Forest has been obtained.

â€¢Pre-project activities like construction of road and bridges from Wahkaji to Mawthabah have been taken up.

â€¢Clearances from State Govt. regarding Consent for Establishment, Transfer of land and Mining lease have not been received.

â€¢Activities are affected by continuous resistance by certain Non Government Organisations (NGOs).

â€¢Several neighborhood development activities have been taken up like health care, aid for schools etc.

Steps have been taken to create positive public perception towards the project in the prevailing environment.

(b)No, Sir. Reasons are as at (a) above

(c)&(d) Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) a Public Sector Enterprise under Department of Atomic Energy is engaged in mining and processing of uranium ore in the country. It has achieved success in meeting the requirement of 8 reactors with an installed capacity of 2400 MW. UCIL is operating seven uranium mines and two process plants in Jharkhand. Some of these units are under capacity augmentation. A large underground mine and process plant at Tummalapalle in Andhra Pradesh has been constructed. In addition, a new underground mine and plant at Gogi in Karnataka, open pit mine at KPM in Meghalaya, one open pit and three underground mines at Lambapur in Andhra Pradesh, and one uranium mining project in Sikar district of Rajasthan are in different stages of implementation.

While there is no slackening of efforts to fully harness all potentially viable uranium resources, factors such as issues related to land acquisition, rehabilitation/resettlement of affected persons, environmental sensitiveness due to proximity of drinking water sources, reserve forest/tiger sanctuary, socio-political reasons, availability of water, environmental and forest clearances, public consensus etc. influence the decision on tapping unexplored resources Mining technology and economics are the important criteria which decide the exploitation of a deposit (uranium occurrence). Based on these criteria, many of the small deposits are not amenable to mining at present.

(e)No, Sir.

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